

the process rolling. What I really wanted to talk about is what they are raising as a study by the Legislature in a sense is what we did with LR 206. We had the different committees sit down and we looked at the different sort of burdens that we've placed on counties and cities and schools. And the Education Committee did their work, Health and Human Services did our work, Transportation, all the different committees, Natural Resources. And so in a sense that's what we started off doing. And I think a follow-up to that is in order. I don't think we need to focus solely on unfunded mandates, the question is more broad than that. The question is, what sort of responsibilities currently exist for counties or cities or schools that are properly their responsibility versus responsibilities that are, are at a state level and more efficiently something that can be delivered at the state level versus the community? And, again, I think the broader issue, we're focusing in here on unfunded mandates, but I think that's too narrow a focus. I think what we need to do is back up a bit. I would suggest perhaps, as Senator Coordsen asked, perhaps withdrawing the amendment at this time and lets talk further as to how this Legislature wants to take the next step, interim studies are due tomorrow, take the next step on the work that we started last year with the interim work that we initiated. We started the ball rolling, these bills before us are one of the consequences of that, but much more needs to be done. We just, we just looked at the tip of the iceberg. So I'm suggesting, we're headed down the track, we've been heading down that track, is there a way that we can perhaps refine it a little better than this amendment does at this point? Let me, let me give you a few examples of what I'm talking about here. In the study that was initiated, again, by LR 206, and then I think the Health Committee's part of that was LR 208, we did look at, for instance, particularly the counties have a heavy responsibility in health and human services. They have responsibility for indigent care, they have responsibility for general assistance, and they are partners with us in the regional service systems that we have in place for developmental disabilities, mental health, substance abuse, aging. In those areas we saw that there was, in fact, what the terminology here is, an unfunded mandate. We require our counties to pay for through property taxes for these various services. And we came back with the answer that the state could take that over, relieve the property tax payments there, and do the delivery of those services more efficiently than currently is the case. So we'll have a chance to take the concept of relieving unfunded